News 4 / 07.2025

EQui-T

European Quality Development System for Inclusive Education and Teacher Training

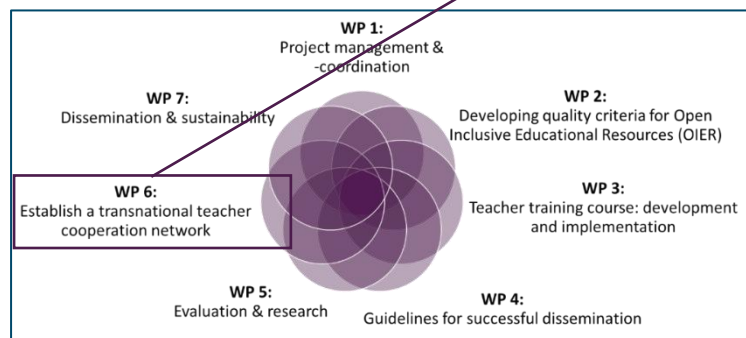## What's EQui-T again?

Duration: 06/2023 – 06/2026

European Quality Development System for Inclusive Education and Teacher Training – EQui-T is funded by the European Commission as part of the Erasmus+ Teacher Academies Call. It was launched on 15th June 2023. In this international three-year project, seven European universities from five partner countries are working together to further develop digitally supported inclusive teaching in Europe. The focus is on teaching and learning materials in the form of Open Educational Resources (OER) for inclusive teaching - **Open Inclusive Educational Resources (OIER)**.

Spotlight on…

Work package 6: Establish a transnational teacher cooperation network:

Study Visit in Austria

On January 30 and 31, 2025, the EQui-T project team in Austria had the pleasure of welcoming an inspiring group of (future) teachers and experts in the fields of inclusion, education, and Open Educational Resources from Norway, Spain, Estonia, Italy, and Austria to Graz.

WP 1: Project management & -coordination

WP 7: Dissemination & sustainability

WP 2: Developing quality criteria for Open Inclusive Educational Resources (OIER)

WP 6: Establish a transnational teacher cooperation network

WP 3: Teacher training course: development and implementation

WP 5: Evaluation & research

WP 4: Guidelines for successful dissemination

As part of this first study visit, organized by the project team at the University College of Teacher Education Styria (PHSt), participants had the opportunity to **experience how inclusive education is implemented in practice**.

The group visited two **primary schools in Graz**, where they observed how inclusion is actively practiced. In addition to engaging with school principals and teaching staff, the participants were able to explore various classrooms and witness inclusive teaching in action. A particularly interesting aspect was seeing how digital tools and assistive technologies are used to support students with special educational needs and ensure their equal participation in education.

A special highlight was the afternoon at the **Digital Lab for Inclusion**, where participants explored and tried out assistive technologies, tools for augmentative and alternative communication, and digital tools designed for inclusive teaching at interactive stations. These hands-on experiences encouraged reflection on teaching methods and offered insights into the potential and applicability of these tools in participants' own inclusive teaching practices.

The visit concluded with a **Closing Session**, during which participants reflected on their experiences. They shared personal highlights, analysed the differences between the educational systems of the participating countries, and discussed how the insights gained could be transferred to their professional practice and support their own professional development.
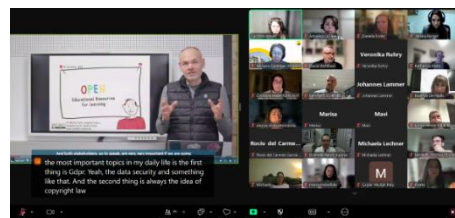
These shared experiences opened up new perspectives and highlighted the opportunities that innovative approaches and technologies offer for inclusive education. The international exchange clearly demonstrated the diverse ways in which inclusion can be realized—and how much we can all learn from one another. The Study Visit powerfully underscored the importance of cross-border collaboration in advancing inclusive educational practices.

International Network meetings:

Strengthening International Collaboration for Inclusive Education

As part of the Erasmus+ Teacher Academy initiative, the EQui-T project has hosted a **dynamic series of international network meetings**, bringing together educators, researchers, and stakeholders from Austria, Spain, Italy, Estonia, and Norway to advance inclusive education through the use of Open Educational Resources (OER). These events have served as valuable platforms for professional exchange and collaborative learning to support inclusive teaching practices across Europe.

The **1st International Network Meeting in December 2024** marked the official launch of the network, attracting over 80 participants from five EU countries. After a warm welcome by **HS-Prof. Dr. Caroline Breyer**, the project coordinator, **Univ.-Prof. Dr. Barbara Gasteiger-Klicpera**, introduced the project's goals and core ideas. Keynotes by **Dr. Martin Ebner** on the potentials of OER and by **David Wohlhart** on inclusive teaching supported by digital scaffolding provided participants with forward-thinking perspectives. National breakout sessions offered space for discussion on existing practices and expectations for the emerging EQui-T network.
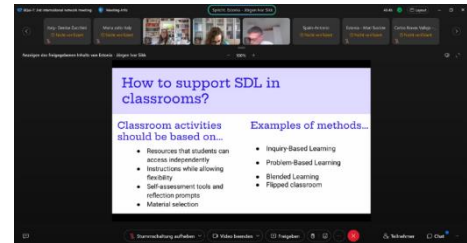
Building on this foundation, the **2nd meeting in February 2025** brought the focus to quality criteria for inclusive OER. Around 60 participants engaged in evaluating and refining the EQui-T Quality Framework. The keynote by **Prof. Miguel Ángel Valero Duboy** emphasized the importance of accessible, inclusive educational materials and shared best practices from the field. In national working groups, participants discussed key dimensions of quality—such as diversity, didactics, and accessibility—and assessed their relevance and usability for classroom practice.
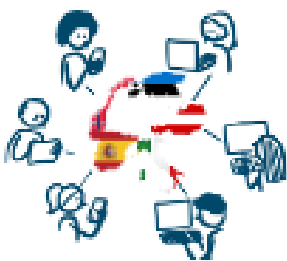
The **3rd meeting in May 2025** explored the intersection of artificial intelligence and inclusive learning. Following a national exchange on current experiences with AI tools, **Jörgen Ivar Sikk** (Tallinn University) delivered an inspiring keynote on AI-supported self-directed learning. Participants reflected on how AI could foster personalized learning while also identifying the need for guidance and ethical frameworks in implementation.

In **June 2025, the 4th EQui-T international meeting** gathered educators and experts online to explore "Accessibility through Digital Resources in Inclusive Education." **Sonia Muñoz Llort** (University of South-Eastern Norway) delivered a keynote on using digital tools to foster inclusive, intersectional learning environments. National breakout sessions focused on co-creating digital tools with students and reflecting classroom diversity through inclusive practices.

Together, these events have strengthened transnational cooperation, inspired innovation, and contributed significantly to developing inclusive, future-ready teaching practices across Europe. The international network meeting series will continue in September 2025 with its next event.

The **next international network meeting** will take place on **September 24, 2025**, from **16:00-17:30 CEST**.

If you would like to register, please send an email to Christina Hasenhüttl: christina.hasenhuettl@er.phst.at

We look forward to your participation!

National Network Meetings - Fostering Local Learning Communities for Inclusive Education
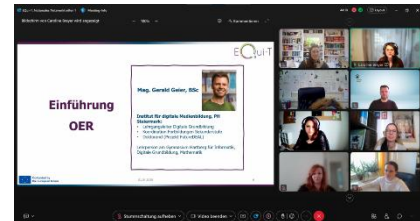
Alongside the international exchange, the EQui-T project has built active national networks in Austria, Estonia, Italy, Norway, and Spain. These networks support local learning communities focused on inclusive education and Open Educational Resources (OER), bringing together students, educators, researchers, and inclusion experts on a regular basis.

Each network adapts its meetings to national priorities, fostering hands-on learning, reflection, and peer exchange. While topics vary, all share the goal of promoting inclusive teaching through high-quality, adaptable (digital) resources, featuring expert inputs, showcases of relevant projects and platforms, and collaborative discussions.

Snapshots of the national networks:

In **Austria**, the national network has launched a six-part workshop series on inclusive OER. The first two workshops, held in April and May 2025, focused on the legal foundations of OER, open licensing, and the effective search for high-quality teaching materials. Participants explored platforms, tested search strategies, and collaboratively built a resource collection tailored to inclusive classrooms. Future workshops will support participants in adapting and creating materials to meet the diverse needs of all learners.

In **Italy**, the national network has launched four national meetings on inclusive education and OER for inclusive education (OIER). These four meetings were connected to each other and had the goal of highlighting the importance of creating and promoting an inclusive and sustainable environment, and some possible strategies and tools. Specifically, the first workshop, held in February 2025, focused on scholastic inclusion in the 21st century. The second one, held in March 2025, was about strategies and resources for scholastic inclusion. Later, the third meeting, held at the end of April 2025, focused on the importance of promoting OIER to guarantee education rights for all. Finally, the last one, held in May 2025, was mostly focused on OIER and the accessibility for scholastic inclusion. All these meetings involved different experts giving inputs, and participants had the opportunity to explore the field of inclusive education, and collaboratively work and reflect on the tools and strategies presented.

In **Spain**, the national network has organised two courses on how to develop different inclusive OER including subtitling, audio description, sign language, and compilation with technical accessibility guidelines. These courses were held in January 2025 and were attended by inclusion specialists. During May and June 2025, we visited 6 schools and associations of people with disabilities to train their professionals in the use of two accessible apps developed by us at the University of Granada, Touchvic and Infinitas Historias. Both apps allow tutors and users themselves to create content adapted for learning.

In **Norway**, the national network was launched in April with a kick-off seminar at campus Porsgrunn (USN). During the seminar, students presented their experience with the study visit in Graz (Austria) earlier this year. Participants were introduced to the EQui-T project and the network, and shared their own experiences with digital learning resources in a lively Q&A. The network will next meet in the autumn to start a series

of webinars on the theme of inclusivity seen through different perspectives: from intersectionality to gifted students.

Through these national meetings, EQui-T fosters lasting engagement, professional growth, and the grassroots development of inclusive practices—building bridges between educational policy, research, and everyday teaching.

This has also happened so far…

Work package 2: Development of a Criteria catalogue for OER

As reported in the last newsletter, intensive work has been carried out in recent months on the Equi-T criteria catalogue for evaluating open (inclusive) educational resources.

In addition to various aspects of OER, the catalogue of criteria also includes recommendations, examples and a checklist. The catalogue of criteria can be seen as a guide when it comes to assessing quality, creating your own OER or adapting OER.

After several feedback loops with revisions and adaptations, the criteria catalogue, a short checklist and an extensive framework has now been finalised and published on our website:

https://equi-t-academy.eu/en/criteria-catalogue/

One day with the EACEA – EQui-T goes to Brussels

The European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) called a meeting, and of course
EQui-T was invited. On 17 June 2025, **María José Rodríguez Fórtiz** (University of Granada) and **Jessica Berger** (University of Graz) travelled to Brussels in order to discuss the first preliminary results of the evaluation of the Erasmus+ Teacher Academies to date. Between lively discussions and exchange of ideas, there was time for pleasant networking with participants from other projects. The workshop in Brussels showed once again that **inclusion works best when we work together** – across borders, in a practical way and with a commitment to education. With new ideas and strengthened European partnerships, EQui-T is looking forward to the next steps in the project with motivation.

One more thing…

Teachers wanted

We are looking for teachers who would like to share their expertise with us!

Topic: useful platforms, tools and programs for searching, creating, storing, and adapting (digital) materials

Goal: The results will be used to develop guidelines for successful dissemination of Open Educational Resources (OER)

Is the participation anonymous? Yes!

Would you like to share your experiences? Yes? Perfect!

Please select your respective language and complete our survey:

English: https://survey.uni-graz.at/index.php/596663?lang=en

German: https://survey.uni-graz.at/index.php/596663?lang=de

Estonian: https://survey.uni-graz.at/index.php/596663?lang=et

Italian: https://survey.uni-graz.at/index.php/596663?lang=it

Norwegian: https://survey.uni-graz.at/index.php/596663?lang=nb

Spanish: https://survey.uni-graz.at/index.php/596663?lang=es

Thank you for your help! 😊

*** Wanna know what happens next? ***

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Or just visit our website: https://equi-t-academy.eu/en/ to find out more about the project and/ or sign up for our newsletter: daniela.ender@pph-augustinum.at

Daniela, Katharina & Martina,

on behalf of the EQui-T-Team